

# ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 24, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** By week's end, 3 percent of Arizona cotton had been planted, 9 percentage points below the State's 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Sixty-seven percent of Arizona's barley had headed, up 25 percentage points from the previous year. Arizona barley was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 3 percent of the crop rated fair. Sixty-six percent of the State's Durum wheat had headed, up 32 percentage points from the previous year's levels. Durum wheat was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 6 percent of the crop rated fair. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on more than 75 percent of the crop's acreage throughout the State. Arizona's alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 7 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State slightly improved when compared to that of the previous week's report. Eighteen percent of the State's pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 7 percent was rated poor, 24 percent was rated fair, 40 percent was rated good, and 11 percent was rated excellent. Reports from southeastern counties stated that annual forages were now abundant throughout areas of lower elevation. A report from Apache and Navajo Counties also stated that most cattle can still be found on winter pastures. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 11 percent rated very short, 9 percent rated short, 72 percent rated adequate, and 8 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across much of the State, however, counties along Arizona's western border in addition to north-central Coconino County were the exception and remained relatively dry. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the White Mountains, as well as areas along the central Mogollon Rim, received most of the precipitation, accumulating approximately 2.25 inches, while other areas of Arizona received anywhere from 0.25 to 1.50 inches of total precipitation. A reporter from Graham and Greenlee Counties stated that hail was reported in some areas, but no damages were reported. The drought information statements for northern, as well as southeast Arizona, were both rescinded as the State received, on average, 0.75 inch of above normal precipitation since January 1. According to the National Weather Service, Arizona experienced several widespread rain events over the last 30 days. Despite recent precipitation, the seasonal outlook for April, May, and June shows equal odds for either above, near, or below normal seasonal mean temperatures and seasonal total precipitation apart from southeast Arizona where the seasonal total precipitation outlook is leaning below normal and northeast Arizona where the seasonal mean temperature outlook is now leaning above normal. Subsequently, Arizona's seasonal drought outlook shows that conditions are expected to persist throughout central and southeastern regions of the State. Streamflow conditions in portions of the Lower San Pedro and Colorado River Basins continues to be well below normal. However, conditions throughout the State have greatly improved as snowpack has begun to melt throughout areas of higher elevation resulting in all of Arizona's remaining river basin's streamflow conditions to be rated from much above normal to normal. As of March 19, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed a slight improvement when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 40 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 29 percent, severe drought (D2) encompassed 11 percent, and extreme drought (D3) remained at 2 percent of the State's total land area. Arizona once again remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Over the past week, temperatures across much of the State decreased according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 8 degrees below to 4 degrees above normal and ranged from the mid-40s in Coconino County to the mid-80s across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 5 degrees below to 4 degrees above normal and ranged from 25 to 45 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

### CROP PROGRESS

| Commodity     | Current week<br>(percent) | Previous week<br>(percent) | Previous year<br>(percent) | 5-year average<br>(percent) |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barley        |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Headed.....   | 67                        | 58                         | 42                         | 43                          |
| Cotton        |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted ..... | 3                         | 2                          | 3                          | 12                          |
| Durum wheat   |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Headed.....   | 66                        | 57                         | 34                         | 29                          |

NA – not available  
(--) – zero

### DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

|                                   | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Days suitable for fieldwork ..... | 6.9          | 6.8           | 7.0           | 6.9            |
| Topsoil moisture                  | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Very short.....                   | 11           | 18            | --            | 4              |
| Short .....                       | 9            | 9             | --            | 9              |
| Adequate.....                     | 72           | 65            | 100           | 86             |
| Surplus.....                      | 8            | 8             | --            | 1              |
| Subsoil moisture                  |              |               |               |                |
| Very short.....                   | 12           | 21            | --            | 4              |
| Short .....                       | 10           | 11            | --            | 6              |
| Adequate.....                     | 77           | 68            | 100           | 89             |
| Surplus.....                      | 1            | --            | --            | 1              |

NA – not available

(--) – zero

### CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

| Commodity         | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                   | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Alfalfa hay       |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | --            | --            | --             |
| Poor.....         | --           | --            | --            | --             |
| Fair .....        | 7            | 4             | 5             | 11             |
| Good .....        | 46           | 35            | 65            | 48             |
| Excellent.....    | 47           | 61            | 30            | 41             |
| Barley            |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | --            | --            | --             |
| Poor.....         | --           | --            | --            | 1              |
| Fair .....        | 3            | 2             | --            | 12             |
| Good .....        | 51           | 43            | 67            | 65             |
| Excellent.....    | 46           | 55            | 33            | 22             |
| Durum wheat       |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | --            | --            | --             |
| Poor.....         | --           | --            | --            | 1              |
| Fair .....        | 6            | 1             | --            | 3              |
| Good .....        | 30           | 26            | 35            | 48             |
| Excellent.....    | 64           | 73            | 65            | 48             |
| Pasture and range |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | 18           | 27            | 3             | 20             |
| Poor.....         | 7            | 5             | 9             | 20             |
| Fair .....        | 24           | 29            | 30            | 27             |
| Good .....        | 40           | 31            | 38            | 27             |
| Excellent.....    | 11           | 8             | 20            | 6              |

NA – not available

(--) – zero